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# Pest Alert

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest Service

Northeastern Area

NA-FB/P-27

## OAK SPROUT CANKER

Dieback and death of oak sprouts in northern lower Michigan has been linked to stem-girdling cankers. The problem occurs mainly on black oak, northern pin oak, and white oak. It is most common on sites with sandy soils, with a site index of 56 or less, that were clearcut within the past 15 years. Sprout mortality is so severe in some stands that natural reproduction of oak is significantly reduced and the site becomes sod-bound.

Early symptoms include dead and dying twigs and branches in the upper part of oak sprout clumps. As cankers on branches enlarge and the fungus infects the main stem, the entire sprout is girdled and dies.

Typical cankers are elliptical, sunken areas of dead tissue often centered around a dead twig or branch. The fungus causing the cankers has been identified as *Botryodiplodia gallae*.

Similar cankers have been reported on twigs and branches of oak trees stressed by drought or insect defoliation, but never before on oak sprouts.



Oak Sprout Cankers



Oak Sprouts Killed  
by Cankers



Oak Sprout Dieback



Oak Sprout Canker



Send reports of damage to:

Kathryn Robbins  
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